



**Anthony V. Marrocco**

Public Works Commissioner  
Macomb County

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Mar. 29, 2011**

## **Public Works Commissioner Helps Taxpayers and the Environment**



**Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Anthony V. Marrocco (left) and U.S. Rep. Sander Levin inspect one of the 84 solar panels that will be erected at the Chapaton Retention and Treatment Basin in St. Clair Shores to provide electricity for the facility.**

Macomb County Public Works Commissioner Anthony V. Marrocco is keeping up his record of helping taxpayers and assisting the environment, too.

This time, Commissioner Marrocco has turned to the sun to help save money for taxpayers, while also benefitting the environment.

The Macomb County Public Works Office will soon install a series of solar panels on the north edge of the parking lot of the Chapaton Retention and Treatment Basin on

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9 Mile Road near Jefferson in St. Clair Shores, and the energy generated from the panels will be used to power the Chapaton plant, Commissioner Marrocco said.

“Not only is the solar power clean fuel, but we will also save taxpayers money because we won’t have to buy electricity from DTE to power Chapaton,” Commissioner Marrocco said. “In fact, solar energy that we don’t use at Chapaton will be sold back to DTE. That’s a savings for taxpayers.”

Electricity generated by the solar panels will run the lighting, heating and cooling systems, computers and three small pumps at Chapaton. Electricity supplied by DTE will be used to operate the three massive wet weather pumps.

The solar panel project and two other energy saving programs were introduced recently to leaders from St. Clair Shores, Eastpointe and Roseville, as well as U.S Rep. Sander Levin.

Commissioner Marrocco took the opportunity to also showcase more than \$7 million in repairs that have been made on wet weather pumps, and other improvements at Chapaton. About \$4 million in low-interest State Revolving Funds were used to help pay for those repairs and upgrades.

About \$700,000 in State Revolving Fund loans will be used for the solar panels and two other energy-efficient projects at Chapaton, Commissioner Marrocco said. That includes ancillary cost above construction costs.

The other two cost cutting measures are replacing an inefficient, 40-year-old 2 million BTU (British Thermal Unit) boiler with a 500,000 BTU boiler, and replacing decades old windows, doors and lighting. The new boiler and ventilation will cost \$231,000 and the new doors, windows and lighting \$71,998.

Commissioner Marrocco said he expects the federal government to give Public Works a \$200,000 cost reduction on the energy projects.

Jim Pistilli, assistant chief engineer for the Public Works Office, said another plus is the solar panels are made in the United States.

Pistilli said the \$175,000 cost to install the panels will be recovered in seven to 10 years through lower electricity bills. Pistilli said 84 of the 3 ½-foot by 5 ½-foot panels will be erected on the north side of the deck of the Chapaton basin.

“The panels will face south,” Pistilli said. “The southern exposure is unobstructed for maximum exposure.”

The three energy-efficient projects at Chapaton are the latest eco-friendly projects initiated by Commissioner Marrocco. As an example, the new Public Works building on Dunham in Clinton Township, was the first Macomb government office to “go green.”

A rain garden, bio swale and porous paver brick sidewalk were installed at the new office. All three filter out contaminants from rain water.

In addition, the carpeting and ceiling tile at the new building are made from recycled material--- just two of nine eco-friendly features at the new structure.

Congressman Levin was impressed with the Improvements made at Chapaton.

“It was especially good to see how local and federal investments in water infrastructure and energy efficiency are coming together in Macomb County at the Chapaton facility,” Rep. Levin said.

“Most people don’t give sewer and storm water infrastructure a second thought unless that infrastructure fails and they end up with a basement full of water or their favorite beach is closed due to sewer overflows,” he said.

“I’m proud of the progress our area has made in recent years to improve water quality in the Lake St. Clair watershed, but there are still hundreds of millions of dollars in

unmet water infrastructure needs, so this is no time to cut back on the federal investment in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.”

As for the energy-efficient projects, Levin said he would like to see Congress subsidize these programs. He said Germany, for instance, gives residents a tax break on energy-saving projects.

“I was also pleased to see the installation of American-made solar panels to power the Chapaton facility,” Rep. Levin said.